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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/716,882	11/20/2003	Jan Mulder	4590-235	5631
33308	7590	12/20/2005		
LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP 1700 DIAGNOSTIC ROAD, SUITE 300 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER	EPPS, TODD MICHAEL
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3632	
DATE MAILED: 12/20/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/716,882	MULDER, JAN	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Todd M. Epps	3632		

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 November 2003.

2a)  This action is FINAL.                            2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4)  Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.  
    4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-23 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on 20 November 2003 is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/8/03.

4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_ .  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_ .

This is the first Office Action for serial number 10/716,882, Elementary And Complex Coupling Devices, And Their Use, filed on November 20, 2003.

***Claim Objections***

Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: line 2, "third hinging means allows rotation around one axis said axis crossing" should be -- third hinging means allows rotation around one axis, said axis crossing --.

Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities: line 4, "means the third hinging means at two separate points" should be -- means by the third hinging means at two separate points --.

Claim 12 is objected to because of the following informalities: line 2, "said three elementary coupling device" should be -- said three elementary coupling devices --. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 7 recites the limitation "said second connecting means" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 14, and 20 recite the limitation "the means for resting" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 5-18, and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,229,941 to Suliteanu et al. (Suliteanu).

Suliteanu '941 discloses an elementary coupling device, comprising a means for stiffening the elementary coupling device against torsion (fig. 1), linking means (17A) for linking the means for stiffening to a second object (13) to be coupled, first hinging (21) means for hinging each means for linking directly or indirectly on the second object (13) to be coupled to be coupled at two separate points, second hinging (between 17A and B) means for hinging the means for stiffening on each means for linking at two separate points, third hinging (25) means for hinging the stiffening means (23) directly or indirectly on a first object (37) to be coupled at two separate points; wherein the stiffening means is a hollow box (23); wherein the third hinging means allows rotation around one axis and the axis crossing the centres of the third hinging means; wherein third hinging means allows translational movement (fig. 1); a connecting means (fig. 1 – below 2<sup>nd</sup> hinging means) to connecting which the means for linking (17A) are connected, the connecting means being hinged to the linking means by the first and

second hinging means being fixed on the second object (13) to be coupled; a first connecting means (fig. 1 – above 2<sup>nd</sup> hinging means) for connecting the first object (37) to be coupled, the first connecting means being hinged to the stiffening means (23) by the third hinging means (25) at two separate points; wherein the linking means (17B) rest on the second connecting means, and first connecting means are means for supporting the first object (37); coupling device further comprising three elementary coupling devices (fig. 1); wherein the three elementary devices are mounted relatively to each other so that the axes of all elementary coupling devices are mutually perpendicular, these elementary axes being the axes normal to the planes defined by the two means for linking of each elementary coupling device (fig. 1); wherein the angles between the axes of the linking means of the three elementary coupling devices and the vertical direction are equal to  $\arccos$  (fig. 1); further comprising means for absorbing vibrations and shocks (column 7, lines 39-48); further comprising one means for absorbing vibrations and shocks (15) in between each group of two elementary coupling devices (fig. 1); further comprising means for covering the complex coupling device (17/19) on its sides (fig. 1); wherein the means for supporting is common to the three elementary coupling devices; and wherein the supporting means is specially adapted for antenna (fig. 1).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suliteanu '941.

Suliteanu '941 discloses wherein the means for supporting is a cone with six-sided plate, however fails to specifically teach wherein the means for supporting is an inverted cone. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a cone with the six-sided plate (13) and a plate (37) inverted wherein doing so would provide thereof an additional strength on top for a bigger antenna placed on it.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claim 4, the prior art fails to disclose wherein all hinging means allow rotation around any axis.

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 6,581,437 to Chrystall et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,041,500 to Terpstra

U.S. Patent No. 4,367,591 to Hirabayashi et al.

U.S. Patent No. 3,871,778 to Schulte et al.

U.S. Patent No. 3,419,238 to Flory

The above references disclose a structure similar to the applicant's invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Todd M. Epps whose telephone number is 571-272-8282. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on 571-272-6788. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Todd M. Epps  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3632  
December 9, 2005



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